

Curb, Dustin (DES)

From: Michael Bradley <mcbra771@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 29, 2022 3:53 PM
To: DES SBCC
Subject: Support for proposed energy code updates

External Email

Chair Anthony Doan,

I am writing to express my full support for the proposed energy code updates that the State Building Code Council is considering. These proposals, which would move our communities away from reliance on fossil fuels and toward a clean energy future, are smart, necessary improvements to our residential building codes.

As a parent of young children, this opportunity to invest in a future that helps rather than burdens future generations strikes close to home. My two-year old daughters were born in the summer of 2020. When my wife and I brought them home from the hospital, we were confronted with an unexpected choice: do we keep the windows in our home open or shut? In the midst of yet another heat wave, our small home felt like an oven, but the air outside, choked with the smog from yet more wildfires, was unhealthy to breathe.

This choice—unbearable heat versus unbreathable air—has repeated itself every summer since, and will continue, with each decade hotter and harder to live in than the last. That is, unless we take swift action now by using tools we already have to ward off the worse effects of climate change.

This year, the State Building Code Council had the opportunity to do precisely that—by approving proposed amendments to the Residential Energy Code. Two of these proposals would require new construction to utilize heat pumps for water and space heating. These amendments are critical: nearly a quarter of Washington's emissions come from buildings, and developing more houses that rely on fossil fuels locks in rising carbon emissions for decades to come. Heat pumps provide a cost-effective solution, lowering utility bills, avoiding the indoor pollutants caused by gas-burning appliances, and providing relief to children and other vulnerable populations in the summer months.

The SBCC has the chance to make our homes investments in a healthy and resilient future. As a parent of young children, I hope SBCC does so.

Thank you for your consideration.

Michael Bradley

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